in the sugar mills of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to get them released and to ensure that they get at least the minimum wages fixed for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A SANGMA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the Gujarat Government and will be laid on the Table of the House on its receipt.

[illegible] of Panchmarhi and Amarkantak as Tourist Centres

461. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Panchmarhi and Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh as centres of tourist attraction;

(b) if so, what are the plans for their development; and

(c) what financial assistance is likely to be given to the State Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Central Ministry of Tourism gives financial assistance to States on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments. The Ministry has not received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for development of Panchmarhi and Amarkantak. However, a Yatrika has been constructed at Amarkantak by the Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti.

Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority

462. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) in the country.

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) to what extent the Authority will be able to implement environmental protection laws effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up an Environment Protection Authority is under consideration of the Government. Details of the proposed authority are being worked out.

Opening of new spinning units in Gujarat

463. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as per the present policy, new spinning units are not allowed in Gujarat in the districts other than class 'A' backward districts; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that Dang is the only Class 'A' backward district in Gujarat and that no such industry is possible in Dang district as this is a totally forest district;

(c) whether it is a fact that during 1982-84, 232 new spinning units were allowed in the country and that

out of it only two were allowed in Gujarat;

(d) whether it is a fact that 9, 174 and 50 units respectively were allowed in Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, and Andhra Pradesh; if so, how many of them were set up in Class 'A' backward districts; and

(e) when other States have been allowed to start new spinning units in other than class 'A' backward districts; what are the reasons for which the same standard has not been applied for Gujarat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, The present Licensing Policy restricts the creation of spinning capacity and also ensures that fresh blood is inducted into the sector in industrially backward areas.

(b) Dang is the only Category 'A' industrially backward district in Gujarat and is also predominantly tribal. The present Licensing Policy lays stress on the setting up of industrial units in such backward districts.

(c) During the period 1982-84, 241 permissions (Letters of Intent/Letters of Offer/medium scale registrations) were issued for new spinning units in the country. Of these, six were issued for Gujarat.

(d) Permissions given for setting up new units in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh during this period were 11,143 and 9 respectively. For the period under reference there were no Category 'A' districts in these States.

(e) Does not arise in views of (d) above.

Setting up of hotels by private sector

464. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have urged the State Governments to earmark sites for seting up of hotels by the private sector; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To make up for the shortfall in hotel accommodation at certain major tourist centres in the country, the Union Government have written to the concerned State/U.T. Governments to earmark suitable sites for hotels at these centres and make them available to private entreprenures at reasonable rates. Information about the specific action taken by them is yet to be received.

Incidence of violence in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar

465. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have reported the largest number of cases of violence during the year 1986-87, according to a report of the Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The cases of violence occuring in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar referred to in the Annual Report of the Ministry per-